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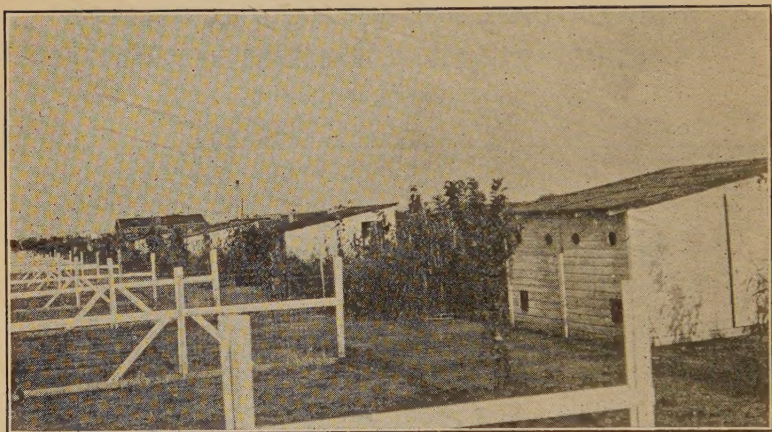
OKLAHOMA
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

Shade and Green Feed *for* Chickens

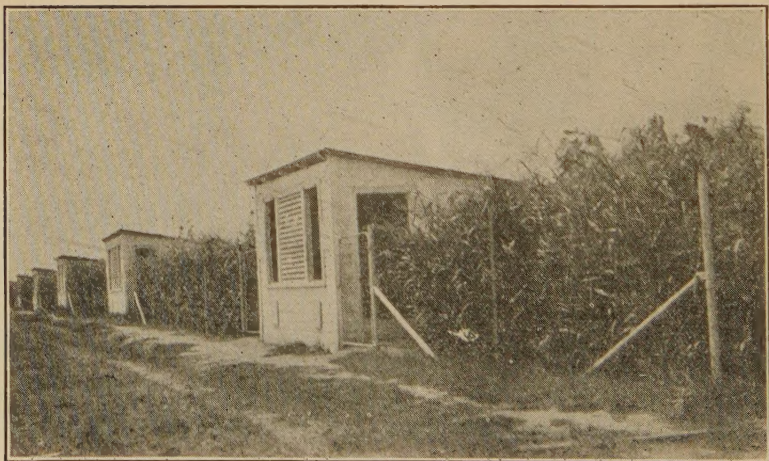
By
R. B. THOMPSON AND ROBERT PENQUITE



Shade from big trees is enjoyed by growing stock. Note mash box and water crock in the shade with the chicks.



Annual shade in yards of Oklahoma Egg Laying Contest pens. Note openings in back of houses for summer ventilation.



Sudan, sunflower and kafir grown for shade in Oklahoma Egg Laying Contest Yards.

SHADE AND GREEN FEED FOR CHICKENS

By

R. B. THOMPSON AND ROBERT PENQUITE

Shade and green feed are two essentials in successful poultry keeping not yet fully appreciated by many poultrymen. Some of the grains grown and in most general use for feeding poultry are deficient in the things secured from green.

The idea of attempting to provide green feed for hens or chicks from pasture has been permanently abandoned. Pasture is a good supplement but cannot withstand the attack of the hens and chicks and is soon depleted. Much pasture green soon becomes so tough the hens cannot break it off, and therefore, derive no benefit from it. Green feed of some sort should be grown in separate fields from the poultry yards and harvested daily and fed to the chickens. The green feed should be clipped into quarter inch lengths and given to the chickens in such quantities that they will have all they will eat.

This growing of green feed in separate yards does not relieve the poultryman of the necessity of providing double yards and good and frequent cultivation of these yards as a sanitary measure. When the yards are cultivated they should be cropped with something the chickens can pasture on, but when that pasture is gone the outside supply of green feed must be available or the hens suffer and when the hens suffer the poultry profits suffer quite naturally.

The argument is often presented that the poultry house is in the middle, or on the edge, of a wheat field or an alfalfa field or some other green field. In this case, it is readily noticed that the green at the edge of the house is all gone, and as the circle around the house is enlarged, there is more green feed available. A little observation will convince the most skeptical that all the hens are not getting green feed. Hens have personality and the most timid will not range far from their home, therefore, when the green is exhausted beyond their limit of ranging from home they go without the green feed they need for health and production of quality eggs. Some of the hens are of the venture-some roving nature and they go on into unexplored territory and get

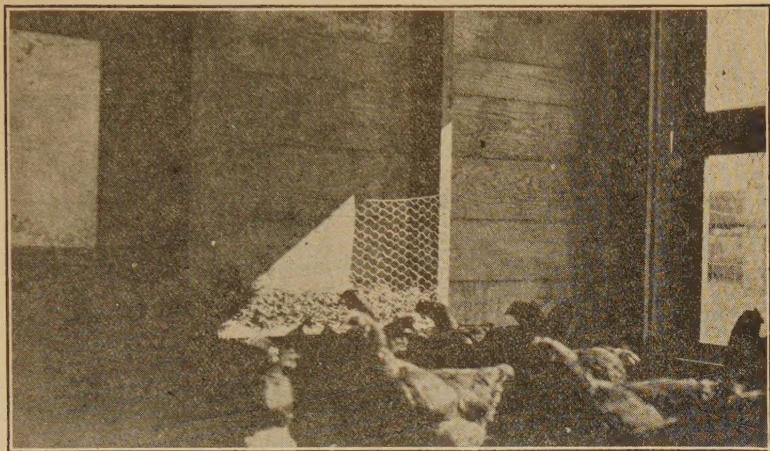
the green feed. But all should have green feed. By watching, it will not take long to determine that the same hens wander far each day and that the same hens stay at home day after day. The same thing is true of growing pullets. The only safe way is to harvest and feed green feed by hand.

A hay rack made of one inch mesh poultry wire should be placed in every poultry house about the first of October. During the winter, this rack should be kept filled with chopped, green alfalfa hay of good quality.

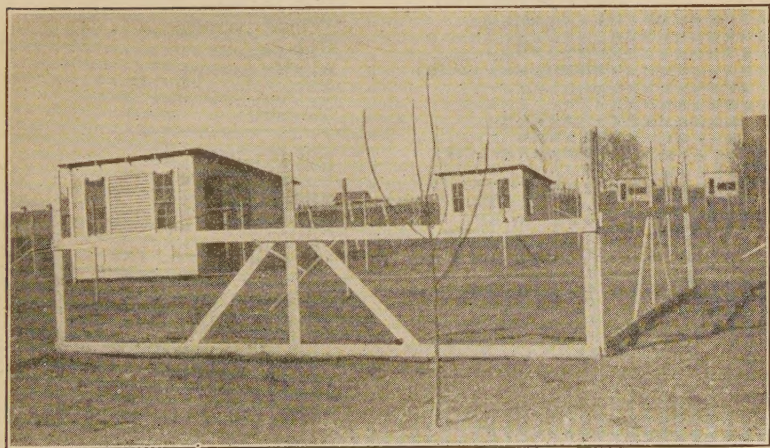
Many things are yet to be learned of green feeds that can be grown and used in Oklahoma but at present the poultry green feed calendar given in this circular is the best that has been devised.



Field of swiss chard growing at Oklahoma Experiment Station Poultry Farm.



Rhode Island Red hens at hay rack filled with chopped alfalfa hay.



Portable panel fence used to block off a corner of poultry yard for growing of summer shade plants until young tree is old enough to furnish sufficient shade.

POULTRY GREEN FEED CALENDAR

Month	*Planting Date	Available Green Feed
January		Wheat pasture Rye pasture Barley pasture Sprouted oats Sprouted barley Turnips Carrots Beets Alfalfa (dried leaves)
February	Oats (20th) Barley (20th) Kale (28th) Rape (28th)	Wheat pasture Rye pasture Barley pasture Sprouted oats Sprouted barley Turnips Carrots Beets Alfalfa (dried leaves)
March	Stock or sugar beets (1st week) Oats (1st) Barley (1st) Mustard (1st) Carrots (15th) Swiss chard (15th) Cabbage (15th)	Sprouted oats Sprouted barley Small amount of oat pasture Small amount of sweet clover Pasture Small amount of wheat pasture Small amount of rye pasture Some alfalfa pasture
April	Swiss chard (1st) Carrots (1st) Beets (1st) Sudan grass (20th)	Oat pasture Wheat pasture Rye pasture Alfalfa pasture Sweet clover Mustard
May	Sudan grass (1st)	Oat pasture Wheat pasture Alfalfa pasture Sweet clover pasture Cabbage Mustard
June		Sudan grass Swiss chard Cabbage Alfalfa pasture
July		Swiss chard Sudan grass Kale Rape Alfalfa Cabbage Beet tops and small Beets

August	Alfalfa (last part of August if ground is moist)	Swiss chard Sudan grass Kale Rape Alfalfa Beet tops and small beets
September	Turnips (1st) Mustard (1st) Alfalfa (1st if ground is moist) Wheat (15th) Sweet clover (15th) Rye (15th)	Alfalfa Sudan grass (if tender) Swiss chard Kale Rape
October	Alfalfa (1st if ground is moist)	Alfalfa Mustard Swiss chard Turnips (tops and small) Kale Rape
November		Alfalfa Wheat pasture Rye pasture Barley pasture Mustard Swiss chard Turnips Kale Rape Beets Carrots
December		Alfalfa Wheat pasture Rye pasture Barley pasture Sprouted oats Sprouted barley Carrots Turnips Kale Rape Beets

*These planting dates are for the central part of the state. In the northern part of Oklahoma plant about one week later. In the southern part of the state plant about one week earlier.

There are many places in Oklahoma where trees cannot be grown with much success. Some shade other than the shadows of the chicken house should be provided for the chickens. It is not a difficult matter to provide shade, and chickens often go without shade through the summer because of neglect or thoughtlessness during planting season. It is not a difficult matter to plant a few rows of corn, kafir, milo, or sudan grass near the chicken house and protect it until it is large enough that the chickens will not damage it. If a special yard is planted for the chickens, a splendid plan is to plant alternate rows of different crops such as sudan, sunflower, kafir, and corn. The rows should be 30 to 36 inches apart to allow for cultivation and room for the chickens. This sort of arrangement provides crops of slightly different maturing season and thereby a rotation of shade from early till late summer.

Permanent shade of large trees that can be cultivated is good but shade of brush and vines that cannot be cultivated is a source of trouble. Worms, fleas, and disease of many sorts harbor in dusty or dirty shade made by permanent brush and vine growth.